

REMARKS-General

1. The amended independent claim 46 incorporates all structural limitations of the original claim 1 and includes further limitations previously brought forth in the disclosure. No new matter has been included. All claims 46-57 are submitted to be of sufficient clarity and detail to enable a person of average skill in the art to make and use the instant invention, so as to be pursuant to 35 USC 112.

Response to Rejection of Claims 4-57 under 35USC103

2. The Examiner rejected claims 27-45 over Stanford (US 6,112,674) in view of Virtue (US 2,278,810), Palmer (US 4,825,781), Pinch (US 6,058,853), and Witkowiak (US 2,695,828). Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103:

“(a) A patent may not be obtained thought the invention is **not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title**, if the **differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.** Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.”

3. In view of 35 U.S.C. 103(a), it is apparent that to be qualified as a prior art under 35USC103(a), the prior art must be cited under 35USC102(a)~(g) but the disclosure of the prior art and the invention are not identical and there are one or more differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art. In addition, such differences between the subject matter sought to be patented **as a whole** and the prior art are obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains.

4. In other words, the differences between the subject matter sought to be patent **as a whole** of the instant invention and Stanford which is qualified as prior art of the instant invention under 35USC102(b) are obvious in view of Virtue, Palmer, Pinch, and/or Witkowiak at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains.

5. The applicant respectfully submits that in order to determine whether the differences between the subject matters sought to be patent as a whole of the instant invention and the primary prior art, Stanford, are obvious in view of the supplemental cited arts, Virtue, Palmer, Pinch, and Witkowiak, we have to identify all the differences between the claims of the instant inventions and Stanford. The applicant respectfully identifies the differences between the claims of the instant invention and Stanford as follows:

- (a) In claim 46, "a top panel having **two receiving tracks** longitudinally formed under said top panel alone two side edge portions respectively" is claimed, wherein Stanford never mention any receiving track formed at the table top.
- (b) In claim 46, "two tabletop supports securely mounted within the receiving tracks" is claimed to longitudinally support the top panel along two side edge portions thereof, wherein Stanford merely teaches two side rails 42, 44 securing into the opposing longitudinal side walls 48 of the table top by screws.
- (c) In claim 46, "a supporting means which comprises two **L-shaped supporting arms** and a folding frame" is claimed to link the tabletop with the leg frame, wherein Stanford is silent regarding any L-shaped supporting arm. The applicant respectfully submits that each of the L-shaped supporting arms has a lower retention portion and an upper supporting portion transversely extended from the lower retention portion to form a L-shaped structure.
- (d) In claim 46, "the outer end of each of the supporting arms is pivotally mounted at the respective tabletop support" is claimed, wherein Stanford merely teaches the pivotal support braces 24, 30 attached to the table top 12 via the cross brace member 36. It is apparently Stanford fails to teach any structural configuration between the pivotal support brace 24, 30 and the side rail 42, 44. The applicant respectfully submits that the supporting arm has no physical connection to the top panel. The outer ends of the supporting arms are directly connected to the tabletop support but not the top panel. In other words, Stanford is silent regarding any pivotal connection between the pivotal support brace 24, 30 and the side rail 42, 44.

(e) In claim 46, “**the outer ends of the supporting arms are detachably attached to the tabletop supports**” is claimed, wherein Stanford is silent regarding the pivotal support braces 24, 30 or the cross brace member 36 being detachably attached to the side rails 42, 44.

(f) In claim 46, “**the supporting portions of the two supporting arms are transversely extended** underneath the tabletop between the two tabletop support at a mid-portion of the top panel” is claimed, wherein Stanford merely teaches the cross brace member 36 transversely extended at a middle of the table top 12 without any mention of any pivotal support brace transversely extended between the two side rails 42, 44. In other words, Stanford fails to suggest any supporting means not only linking the leg frame with the tabletop supports but also transversely extending between the two tabletop supports.

(g) In claim 46, “**the retention portions of the two supporting arms are parallelly extended alongside** to pivotally connect to the folding frame” is claimed, wherein Stanford merely teaches the pivotal support brace 24, 30 is an elongated member without any mention of how to incorporate two L-shaped supporting arms to link the leg frame with the side rails 42, 44.

6. The applicant respectfully submits that one of the major patentable subject matters in claim 46 is to provide four L-shaped supporting arms to link the leg frame with the two tabletop supports without any physical connection to the top panel. The supporting portions of the supporting arms are pivotally connected to the tabletop supports and are transversely extended at the mid-portion of the top panel between the tabletop supports. It is apparently that Stanford fails to suggest how to use four L-shaped supporting arms to link the leg frame with the side rails 42, 44.

7. Therefore, the difference between Stanford and the instant invention as claimed in claim 46 is not limited to the disclosure of “tabletop with leg frame”, but includes the above distinctive features (a) to (g). In addition, regarding to claims 47 to 57, the instant invention further contains the following distinctive features:

(h) Stanford fails to teach “**the surrounding rim has an outer sidewall and an inner sidewall to form the receiving track**” as claimed in claim 47 in addition to what is

claimed in claim 46. Stanford merely teaches the table top 12 is formed of a blow-molded plastic to form the side walls 48.

(i) Stanford does not teach “four **attaching members** are spacedly and transversely extended from the two tabletop supports through the inner sidewalls respectively to rotatably insert into outer ends of the leg frame respectively so as to pivotally connect said leg frames with the top panel” as claimed in claim 48 in addition to what is claimed in claim 46. It is worth to mention that when the leg frame is coupled with the tabletop supports via the attaching members, the top plane is substantially engaged with the tabletop support and the leg frame without any screw. In other words, Stanford requires the screws to attach the side rails 42, 44 to the table top 12.

(j) Stanford fails to teaches “four **coupling members** are spacedly and transversely extended from the two tabletop supports through the inner sidewall respectively to rotatably insert into outer ends of the four supporting arms so as to pivotally connect the supporting arms with the top panel” as claimed in claim 48 in addition to what is claimed in claim 46. Likewise, when the supporting arm is coupled with the tabletop supports via the coupling members, the top plane is substantially engaged with the tabletop support and the supporting arm without any screw.

(k) Stanford does not teach any “**attachment hole and/or coupling hole**” at the tabletop supports to pivotally connect the leg frame and the supporting arm with the tabletop supports through the top panel as claimed in claim 50 in addition to what is claimed in claim 46. It is worth to mention again that when the supporting arm and the leg frame are coupled with the tabletop supports through the attachment holes and coupling holes, the top plane is substantially engaged with the tabletop support and the supporting arm without any screw.

(l) Stanford does not teach any “**guiding slot** formed on the inner sidewall of the surrounding rim to respectively align with the attachment members and the coupling members” as claimed in claims 49 and 51 in addition to what is claimed in claim 46. As it is mentioned above, no hole can be formed at the side wall 42, 44 of the table top 12 by blow-molding technique. The top panel of the instant invention is made by plastic injection technique such that the guiding slots can be pre-formed on the inner wall of the top panel such that the tabletop supports are connected to the leg frames

and the supporting arms via said attachment arrangement through the guiding slots of the top panel without physically damaging the top panel by screws.

(m) Stanford does not teach how to fold the table top 12 in half. The instant invention allows the top panel to be folded in half by having a **folding joint** formed at the tabletop between the supporting portions of the table supporting frame as claimed in claims 52 to 54 in addition to what is claimed in claim 46. Accordingly, the two pairs of L-shaped supporting arms create a space between the supporting portions of the supporting arms for the folding joint positioning therebetween. Therefore, another unexpected result of using the L-shaped supporting arm is to incorporate the folding joint with the tabletop to fold the top panel in half while the supporting arm can still support the top panel when the tabletop is unfolded. Since Stanford teaches the cross brace member 36 is transversely extended at the middle of the table top 12, the portable folding table of Stanford cannot be folded in half.

(n) Stanford does not teach “a ring-shaped locker slidably mounted to the L-shaped supporting arms along the **retention portion** thereof to lock up the supporting arms at the unfolded position” as claimed in claims 55 to 57 in addition to what is claimed in claim 46. Stanford merely teaches a locking collar 108 slides along the elongated pivotal support brace 24, 30.

8. Accordingly, Stanford fails to suggest the above distinctive features (a) to (n) as claimed in the instant invention. Whether the claims 46 to 57 as amended of the instant invention are obvious depends on whether the above differences (a) to (n) between the instant invention and Stanford are obvious in view of Virtue, Palmer, Pinch, and/or Witkowiak at the time of the invention was made.

9. Virtue merely teaches a pair of outwardly diverging arms 32 rigidly attached to the under side of the table top without any suggestion of any tabletop support and how such diverging arm 32 be possibly attached to the tabletop support. In fact, Virtue is silent regarding any tabletop support extended underneath the table top. In other words, Virtue fails to suggest how to pivotally couple the diverging arm 32 to the tabletop support without any physical connection to the table top.

10. Palmer merely teaches a leg member comprises of 2 U-shaped sub-members 1 directly attaching to the tabletop without any mention of any pivotally connection

between the sub-members and the tabletop support. In other words, Palmer is silent regarding any tabletop support extended underneath the tabletop to pivotally connect to the sub-members. The applicant respectfully submits the leg member of Palmer is totally different from the L-shaped supporting arm of the instant invention, wherein the top section 4 directly mounted to the bottom side of the tabletop at a perpendicular position. The supporting arm of the instant invention is to pivotally connect the tabletop support with the outer end of the supporting arm.

11. In other words, even though the table of Stanford is modified, as proposed by the Examiner, by using the diverging arm of Virtue and the leg member of Palmer, there is no suggestion of not only pivotally connecting the outer ends of four L-shaped supporting arm to the tabletop support without physical connection to the top panel but also configuring four supporting portions of the L-shaped supporting arm to transversely extend between the tabletop support at the mid-portion of the top panel.

12. Pinch merely teaches a table top with a bottom sheet of plastic formed to include a longitudinal support rail 152 protruded from the table top and a U-shaped cross sectional reinforcing cover 156 covers the support rail 152 without teaching any the receiving track formed between an outer wall and an inner wall that the tabletop support is received along the receiving track.

13. In addition, Pinch merely teaches a pivot member 64 provided at the support rail 152 for allowing the first and second table sections folded at a collapsed position. However, the pivot member 64 cannot be incorporated with the table of Stanford because the table of Stanford contains the cross brace member 36 transversely extended at the middle of the table top.

14. Witkowiak merely teaches a pivot pin 16 projected from the side rail 11 to engage with a tubular axle member 15 without any suggestion of how the pivot pin pivotally connecting to the supporting arm. In fact, the top section of the leg frame of Palmer is directly connected to the tabletop without any mention of how to connect the end of the leg frame to the tabletop. Therefore, there is no suggestion of how to connect the pivot pin of Witkowiak to the end of the leg frame of Palmer in order to connect the leg frame to the side rail.

15. The applicant respectfully submits that the invention must be considered as a whole and there must be something in the reference that suggests the combination or the modification. See Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick, 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 488 (Fed. Cir. 1984) ("The claimed invention must be considered as a whole, and the question is whether there is something in the prior art as a whole to suggest the desirability, and thus the obviousness, of making the combination"), In re Gordon, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125, 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1984), ("The mere fact that the prior art could be so modified would not have made the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification.") In re Laskowski, 10 U.S.P.Q.2d 1397, 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1989), ("Although the Commissioner suggests that [the structure in the primary prior art reference] could readily be modified to form the [claimed] structure, "[t]he mere fact that the prior art could be modified would not have made the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification.")

16. Applicant believes that neither Stanford, Virtue, Palmer, Pinch, nor Witkowiak, separately or in combination, suggest or make any mention whatsoever of pivottally connecting the outer ends of four L-shaped supporting arm to the tabletop support without physical connection to the top panel but also configuring four supporting portions of the L-shaped supporting arm to transversely extend between the tabletop support at the mid-portion of the top panel as recited in claims 46-57. Accordingly, applicant believes that the rejection of claims 46 to 57 is improper and should be withdrawn.

17. Applicant believes that for all of the foregoing reasons, all of the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

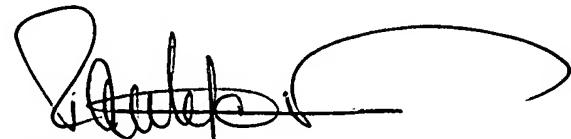
The Cited but Non-Applied References

18. The cited but not relied upon references have been studied and are greatly appreciated, but are deemed to be less relevant than the relied upon references.

19. In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested. Allowance of claims 46 to 57 at an early date is solicited.

20. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed in order to place the application in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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